WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method comprising:

> detecting at least one device;
>
> detecting a protocol associated with each device;
>
> 5   matching the detected protocol with a protocol translator module; and
>
> using a protocol translator module to translate a command formatted in

the protocol into a translated command formatted in a common application

programming interface.

10   2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising searching for the device

from a plurality of devices based on a device identifier.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising searching for the device

from a plurality of devices based on a content type.

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4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising searching for the device

from a plurality of devices based on a device type.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising searching for the device

20   from a plurality of devices based on a device's availability.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising searching for the

protocol translator module.

7. A system comprising:

    means for detecting at least one device;

    means for detecting a protocol associated with each device;

5   means for matching the detected protocol with a protocol translator

module; and

    means for using the protocol translator module to translate a command

formatted in the protocol into a translated command formatted in a common

application programming interface.

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8. A method comprising:

    detecting at least one service;

    detecting a protocol associated with each service;

    matching the detected protocol with a protocol translator module; and

15   using a protocol translator module to translate a command formatted in

the protocol into a translated command formatted in a common application

programming interface.

9. A method comprising:

20   detecting a plurality of devices wherein each unique device communicates

using a corresponding protocol; and

    displaying an indication of each device if a protocol translator module is

matched with the corresponding protocol.

10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising detecting the corresponding protocol from each device.

5   11. The method according to claim 9, further comprising storing the protocol translator module.

12. The method according to claim 9, further comprising translating a command formatted in the corresponding protocol into a translated command formatted in a

10   common application programming interface through the protocol translator module.

13. The method according to claim 9, further comprising searching for a specific device from the plurality of devices based on a device identifier.

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14. The method according to claim 9, further comprising searching for a specific device from the plurality of devices based on a content type.

15.   The method according to claim 9, further comprising searching for a specific

20   device from the plurality of devices based on a device type.

16. The method according to claim 9, further comprising searching for a specific device from the plurality of devices based on a device's availability.

17. A method comprising:

     identifying a plurality of protocol translator modules wherein each protocol translator module is associated with a unique protocol;

5   storing a list representing the plurality of protocol translator modules;

     displaying an indication of each device having a device protocol that is compatible with one of the plurality of protocol translator modules in the list; and

10   translating a command formatted in the device protocol into a translated command formatted in a common application programming interface through one of the plurality of protocol translator modules.

18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising searching for
15 additional protocol translator modules.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising updating the index in response to the searching for additional protocol translator modules.

20 20. A system comprising:

     an application configured for operating through a common application programming interface;

     a first device configured for operating using a first protocol;

a second device configured for operating using a second protocol; and

a protocol translation layer configured for searching for a first protocol

translation module corresponding to the first protocol and for searching for a

second protocol translation module corresponding to the second protocol.

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21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the protocol translation layer is

configured for translating a first command formatted in the first protocol into a

command formatted in the common application programming interface for use by

the application.

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22. The system according to claim 20, further comprising a presentation layer

configured for displaying the first device after locating the first protocol translation

module.

15 23. A network protocol translation system comprising:

a processor that executes a run time process that uses only a single

application programming interface for network communication;

wherein the processor enables the run time process to communicate via a

first network protocol by executing a first translation module that translates

20 between the first network protocol and the application programming interface;

and

wherein the processor enables the run time process to communicate via a

second network protocol, different from the first network protocol, by executing a

second translation module that translates between the second network protocol

and the application programming interface.

24. A method, executed on a computing platform, comprising the acts of:

5   executing a run time process that uses only a single application

programming interface for network communication;

enabling the run time process to communicate via a first network protocol

by executing a first translation module that translates between the first network

protocol and the application programming interface; and

10   enabling the run time process to communicate via a second network

protocol, different from the first network protocol, by executing a second

translation module that translates between the second network protocol and the

application programming interface.

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